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## WELCOME TO COMBATANTS FROM THE FRONTLINE

Report on the meeting in honour of the South Viet Nam NFL Delegation visiting the North  
(page 3)



PRESIDIUM OF THE MEETING HELD IN HANOI IN HONOUR OF THE NFL DELEGATION VISITING NORTH VIET NAM  
First row, from left to right: Nguen Xuan Yem, Secretary General of the Democratic Party; Phan Kt Tost, Vice Premier; Nguen Day Trinh, member of the Political Bureau of the Viet Nam Workers Party; Pham Van Dong, President of the DRVN; Mr. Phung Van Cung, head of the NFL Delegation; Ton Duc Thang, Vice President of the DRVN; member of the Political Bureau of the VNWP; Buddhist Superior Thich Thien Hao, NFL Delegation member; Pham Van Dong, member of the Political Bureau of the VNWP; Prime Minister; General Vo Nguen Giap, member of the Political Bureau of the VNWP; Joseph Marie Ho Huu Ba, NFL Delegation member; Hoang Quoc Viet, member of the Presidium of the Fatherland Front.

## "To End the War, the Crucial Problem Is that of Total and Unconditional Withdrawal of US and Satellite Troops from South Viet Nam"

DRVN Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister's answer

**N**GUEN DUY TRINH,  
Vice - Premier and  
Foreign Minister of  
the DRVN, has accorded an  
interview to George Polk, a  
West German journalist,  
Editor-in-Chief of the Bonner  
Korrespondenz, who recently  
visited the DRVN as member of a delegation of Communist  
leaders of the German Federal  
Republic. We publish below  
some of the questions and  
answers:

### Question 1:

How do you evaluate the  
chances of positive results of  
the four-party Paris Conference  
on Viet Nam?

What are the conditions for  
re-establishing peace in Viet  
Nam?

### Question 2:

What has motivated, in your  
opinion, the U.S. representative's  
proposal to "end the  
restoration of the demilitarized zone" and "concrete  
military questions"?

### Answers to questions 1 and 2:

The purpose of the quadrilateral Paris Conference on Viet Nam is to seek a political settlement of the war. Put an end to the war and restore peace.

Who has sabotaged peace? Who has unleashed the war? It is the U.S. imperialists. They have sent from the other side of the Pacific over 500,000 military experts and troops to invade Viet Nam. They have installed a corrupt and bellicose puppet administration as a tool to maintain their neo-colonial regime in South Viet Nam.

To put an end to the war and restore peace, the U.S. must agree to: 1. It must give up definitely all encroachments on the sovereignty, and threats to the security of the DRVN, withdraws immediately all U.S. and satellite troops from South Viet Nam; let the internal affairs of South Viet Nam be settled by the Vietnamese people themselves in accordance with the Political Program of

the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation without foreign interference. The remaining Viet Nam must be left to the Vietnamese people in both zones, free from outside intervention.

That is the essence of the four points of the Government of the DRVN and the five points of the Viet Nam National Front for Liberation.

That is the basis of a complete settlement guaranteeing the fundamental national rights of the Vietnamese people, meeting the interests of the American people and safeguarding the honor of the U.S. as well as the interests of peace in South-East Asia and the world.

The U.S. representative at the quadrilateral Paris Conference has been trying to discuss first of all the "restoration of the demilitarized zone" with a view to misleading public opinion on the origin of the war and on crucial problems to solve if the war is to be ended.

(Continued page 7)

## PLAF OFFENSIVES UNABATED ACROSS SOUTH VIET NAM AFTER A FORTNIGHT

\* **US 25th Infantry Division's Dong Du Base Wiped Out: 1,270 GIs Killed Or Wounded, 179 Vehicles and 39 Giant Helicopters and Planes Destroyed.**

\* **Second PLAF Double Win Northwest of Saigon at Tra Cao, in 48 Hours, 950 GI Casualties**

\* **10,000 Tons of Munitions and 6 US Aircraft Blasted Near Qui Nhon.**

On March 4, the People's Air Force knocked out a pilotless reconnaissance plane in Hanoi airspace, bringing the total US air losses over the DRVN since August 5, 1964 to

**3,267**

# U.S. THREATS WON'T SHAKE OUR WILL TO FIGHT AND TO WIN

In spite of the most stringent precautions taken by the U.S. command in Saigon, on the 7th day of the Lunar New Year (Feb. 22, 1969) a powerful air strike was mounted which spelled out the immense capabilities of the people's patriotic war waged by our Southern compatriots against the U.S. They came as no surprise to any shrewd observer since these devastating blows which are still raining, were but the continuation of the military actions staged in the course of the last few months in various theatres of operations throughout South Viet Nam. American statistics now disclosed that U.S. casualty figures in January 1969 surpassed by far those of preceding months and showed an increase of 20 per cent compared with October 1968.

In face of the South Vietnamese patriots' action, Washington rulers' reaction only betrayed their utter confusion.

Concurring that a "fact understanding" between the DRVN and the USA in connection with L.B. Johnson's decision to cease all bombardments of North Viet Nam was being violated, the U.S. urged even in threats to resume the war against the North. As these statements stirred up popular anger in the United States and the world over, the State Department spokesman Carl Bartzell finally had to soft-pedal and said he could not affirm whether there was any violation of the fact understanding." (UNIS, Feb. 28)

The fact, however, is that he was still clinging to the so-called existence of such an understanding and did not fail to give rise to suspicions among public opinion in the first place in the United States, Murray Marder, a Washington Post reporter, commented on Feb. 27 at a press conference by Carl Bartzell, "The Americans asked him for more clarifications on the 'fact understanding' between North Viet Nam and the USA. All Carl Bartzell could give was that the Saigon spokesman, 'The Americans who are being sheltered and where the Americans are based, by Murray Marder, the only official text that can be referred to is the joint communiqué of the joint conference of 10 Feb. 1968'.

"We cannot have productive talks in an atmosphere where the cities are being shelled and where the Americans are based," he added.

"For any person with an average intelligence, it is clear that these words were but a unilateral statement which cannot be taken as any bilateral agreement whatsoever."

The New York statement of the DRVN Government unmistakably pointed out that the P.S. cessation of bombardments against the whole territory of the DRVN was unconditional, dismissing the claim of the U.S. and the State Department, the spokesman of the DRVN Foreign Ministry on Feb. 26, 1969 again stressed, "The United States is acting as though an agreement had been reached between

PUPPETS HECKLED BY THE PRESS

A puppet press conference was arranged by the Saigon spokesman, "The Americans who are being sheltered and where the Americans are based, by Murray Marder, the only official text that can be referred to is the joint communiqué of the joint conference of 10 Feb. 1968'.

"We accept these fundamental clauses and we have executed them", the spokesman answered after a few minutes' reflection.

"According to you, is the clause on the holding of general elections in 1970 one of the fundamental clauses?" a Paris-Sai report asked.

"We did not sign the Geneva Agreements and we are firmly opposed to them", replied the Saigon man to the great dissatisfaction of the whole audience.

The Houston correspondent then put another question, "You said that destructive forces should be expelled from South Viet Nam. Then, are the organizations Nguyen Van Thieu has

threatened to 'crush' and the 14,000 South Vietnamese people held in the U.S. Embassy included in such destructive forces?"

Driven into a corner, the puppet spokesman could not dodge clumsily, "I request you not to go too far."

An American correspondent then brought back to mind the clause in the Geneva Agreements, "The problem should be based on the fundamental clauses of the Geneva Agreements. Does the Saigon Administration share the same view?"

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## PARIS CONFERENCE ON VIET NAM HOLDS Seventh Plenary Session

THE Paris Conference on Viet Nam held its 7th plenary session on March 6, 1969.

Taking the floor first, Mr. Tran Van Kien, head of the DRVN delegation, pointed out that the U.S. representative at this Conference had only been trying to shirk with roundabout and impudent demands of the DRVN Viet Nam people. The Nixon administration, he said, while taking place, has been

"not tolerate a continuation of a violation of an understanding of an understanding" by the 14 million South Vietnamese instead to "tolerate" the U.S. imperialists' criminal acts. As a matter of fact, they have been meting out due punishment to the latter.

Mr. Nixon should and must again stop the bombing since he is the U.S. fabricator of a "fact understanding" between the DRVN and the U.S. and its valets will not shake the iron-like determination of the 14 million South Vietnamese to step up their armed resistance to the U.S. for national salvation total victory" (Feb. 26 statement by the Commission for External Relations of the NFL Central Committee).

This entirely legitimate position has received the complete backing of the DRVN Government which made it unequivocally clear in the above-mentioned statement of the spokesman of its Foreign Ministry that the Vietnamese people have the right to self-defence against the U.S. aggressors at any place on Vietnamese territory and will fight on its soil. Such a right is the Vietnamese people's inalienable right to self-defence.

Mr. Nixon said he would "not tolerate a continuation of a violation of an understanding of an understanding" by the 14 million South Vietnamese instead to "tolerate" the U.S. imperialists' criminal acts. As a matter of fact, they have been meting out due punishment to the latter.

The NFL chief delegate again proved the soundness of the NFL Political Program.

ramme and its five points and declared, "It is only after the U.S. has ceased its aggression, with unconditional withdrawal of South Viet Nam U.S. and satellite troops that the South Vietnamese people will be able to hope that they can destroy free from outside interference. And only then will the U.S. and satellite troops no longer be attacked by South Viet Nam armed forces and people."

Speaking next, Minister of State Xuan Thuy, Head of the Delegation of the DRVN Government, refuted the U.S. representative's assertion that the DRVN Viet Nam people will be able to self-defence against the U.S. aggressors. He cited as examples the razing by air bombing of the Catholic village of Tam Hiep on Feb. 23, 1969, the massacre by U.S. "air-cav" of 24 Catholics at My Thanh village, Long An province on the night of Feb. 24, 1969.

He dismissed the "protests" by the U.S. puppets in connection with the PLAF attacks throughout South Viet Nam and reassured the right to self-defence of the South Vietnamese people. The leadership of the DRVN, he said, were determined to punish the U.S. aggressors and their valets at any time and in any place so long as they continue their aggressive war.

The DRVN envoy disposed of U.S. President Nixon's charges of "violation" of an understanding between the DRVN and the USA on the cessation of bombing against

(Continued page 7)

## Anecdotes Around Paris Conference

The spokesman, visibly embarrassed, responded in the English, "I'm sorry, I'm not a communist included in such destructive forces?"

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# Military Operations

NEWS of PLAF attacks against enemy military bases, airfields, services and installations in cities and urban areas in the north and west, a flare-up keeps flashing in and helps paint a more complete picture of this memorable post-Tet period. According to reports released by *Giai Phong* Press Agency, the patriots mounted offensive in *provinces and smaller administrative divisions* of South Viet Nam. Several hundred most important enemy military targets were hit. The U.S.-puppet hide-outs in 30 cities and provincial capitals including Da Nang, Saigon and Vung Tau suffered damage and losses, often very serious, during the last week of February. Huge logistic bases, such as Can Gio, Long Binh, Shu Be, Pleika and Qui Nhon were in a blaze for hours, and hundreds of thousands of tons of fuel, munitions, armament and military equipment destroyed. Considerable damage was also done to huge air bases including Da Nang, Bien Hoa, Phu Thuy (Me-kong Delta) Go Quanh (near Qui Nhon), and Chu Lai.

In addition, many enemy H.Q.'s were completely or partly devastated. The U.S.-puppet *Marine Corps* and *Police* in Saigon that of the U.S. *Infantry* in Long Binh, those of at least 20 districts, those of at least 5 brigades of the U.S. *satellite* puppet forces apart from numerous enemy regiments and battalions (U.S.). It is safe to say that the PLAF splendidly timed their blows and hit very hard home at the softest points of the enemy war machine, causing him very heavy losses in men, material and technical means.

Today, two weeks after the opening of these well coordinated offensives, the PLAF, according to Western news agencies themselves, have shown no sign they are "out of breath" as repeatedly claimed in the bulletines of the top brasshats in Washington or in Saigon.

Following are the most remarkable developments of the past week reported by GIA:

#### Destruction of Dong Du Base:

THIS base of the U.S. 5th Infantry Division nick-named "Tropic Lightning" situated near Cu-Chi, 30km Northwest of Saigon came under a ground assault of the patriots at 2 a.m. Feb. 26, following a violent artillery barrage which hammered the defenders com-

pletely. The PLAF killed 595 GI's, wounded 420 others, destroyed 179 vehicles including 39 tanks and armored personnel carriers, and shot down or destroyed on the ground 39 aircraft mostly giant helicopters. They also reduced to rubble 16 blockhouses, 29 casemates, and burnt 4 arms depots including one containing 3000 mortars and one containing artillery shells, as well as a fuel dump and 10 barrack buildings. Fire raged on until 4 p.m. next day.

#### Another double win at Tra Cao:

THIS position held by a U.S. battalion and situated in the Saigon defense perimeter, 55 km to the North West, was taken on the night of Feb. 22 as reported in our last issue: 500 GI's were killed or wounded. Another 400 unit was sent in to re-occupy the position the PLAF had abandoned after their victory. On the night of Feb. 21, the latter came back in strength and, after less than 2 hours of fighting, destroyed this new garrison, and caused another 450 GI casualties. The survivors hurriedly fled from Tra Cao.

This was the second "double win" in the area North West of Saigon by the PLAF in this period. They had won previously, apart from numerous enemy regiments and battalions (U.S.). It is safe to say that the PLAF splendidly timed their blows and hit very hard home at the softest points of the enemy war machine, causing him very heavy losses in men, material and technical means.

At about 10 km further to the Northeast of Tra Cao, near Trang Bang, the regional troops of the PLAF harassed the enemy without let-up and between Feb. 23 and March 2 sent 5000 troops out of action, shot down 11 planes and helicopters, destroyed 38 vehicles and sank or burnt 4 killed or wounded.

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